

Application. No. 09/912,134

IN THE CLAIMS

1. - 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a CAN Controller Area Network communication line, comprising:

comparing a first CAN Controller Area Network bus line having a first voltage thereon, to a ground level;

generating a first signal, where the first signal is a logic "1" if the difference between the first CAN Controller Area Network bus line and the ground level is less than a first voltage; and the first signal is a logic "0" [;:] if the difference between the first CAN Controller Area Network bus line and the ground level is greater than the first voltage;

selecting the first signal as an input signal to an edge-triggered flip-flop if a receive data signal is in a first one of two states, and selecting an output signal of the edge-triggered flip-flop as an input signal to the edge-triggered flip-flop if the receive data signal is in a second one of two states; and

clocking the edge-triggered flip-flop when a transmit data signal changes state.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein the first voltage is -1.2 volts.

11. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein the first voltage has a tolerance in the region of 320%.

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12. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein the edge-triggered flip-flop is a positive edge-triggered flip-flop, and the edge-triggered flip-flop is clocked when the transmit data signal changes state from a high level to a low level.

13. (New) An apparatus for operating a Controller Area Network communication line, comprising:

a means for comparing a first Controller Area Network bus line having a first voltage thereon, to a ground level;

a means for generating a first signal, where the first signal is a first logical value if the difference between the first Controller Area Network bus line and the ground level is less than a first voltage; and the first signal is a second logical value, if the difference between the first CAN bus line and the ground level is greater than the first voltage;

a means for selecting the first signal as an input signal to an edge-triggered flip-flop if a receive data signal is in a first one of two states, and selecting an output signal of the edge-triggered flip-flop as an input signal to the edge-triggered flip-flop if the receive data signal is in a second one of two states; and

a means for clocking the edge-triggered flip-flop when a transmit data signal changes state.

14. (New) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the first voltage is -1.2 volts.

15. (New) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the first voltage has a tolerance in the region of 320%.

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~~16.~~ ⁸ (New) The apparatus of Claim ~~15~~ ⁵, wherein the first logical value is "1" and the second logical value is "0".

~~17.~~ ⁹ (New) The apparatus of Claim ~~13~~ ⁵, wherein the clocking of the edge-triggered flip-flop occurs responsive to a high-to-low transition of the transmit data signal.